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DN EXTRA

April 2005

Bold as brass

Fine tuning makes hobbies easy

Power to the people

Green paper points way to the future

Narrowing the gap

Schools included in new bill

DN EXTRA...

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www.disabilitynow.org.uk

'Action on inclusion needed'

Improvements in the lives of people with learning difficulties are in danger of "hitting a glass ceiling" if society does not become more inclusive, according to a new report on the Valuing People white paper.

Rob Greig, director of Valuing People, said people with learning difficulties were "more on the public agenda" than when the learning difficulties white paper was published in 2001.

But he said action was needed to encourage "mainstream" society and services to include people with learning difficulties.

And he called for better collection and monitoring of information to support the case for greater funding.

"We know the numbers of people and their levels of need are increasing but that has not been articulated very well. Most local authorities do not have good data on how many they are providing support and services for."

In his report on the first four years of Valuing People*, he said people with learning difficulties were listened to more, direct payments were helping to change lives and local organisations were working together better.

He laid out 12 priorities for the next five years, which included stopping people being sent to live away from their local communities, improving health, housing and opportunities for paid work, and giving people more choice and control over their lives.

Mr Greig said Valuing People had "stood the test of time" but too many people still did not know about it.

Community care minister Stephen Ladyman (*left*) told *DN* the key message was that planning of services for people with learning difficulties should be "genuinely mainstream".

* *www.valuingpeople.gov.uk/Review.htm*

Praise for green paper

Government plans to give disabled people individual budgets to buy the services they need have been welcomed by campaigners as "extremely empowering".

The Department of Health says the proposals in its new green paper on adult social care, now out for consultation until 28 July*, would give disabled people "higher quality support and greater control over their lives".

Disabled people would be given individual budgets to buy the services they choose, with care brokers to help them assess their needs and manage their budget.

There would be greater co-operation between the NHS and voluntary organisations, less need for disabled people to provide the same information to different agencies, and more accessible services across local government.

Community care minister Stephen Ladyman said: "Make no mistake, services will be driven by the users of those services, not the managers. Individuals will be enabled to make choices. And the services provided will be person-centred, proactive and seamless."

The Disability Rights Commission (DRC) said the green paper "contains the elements for a much needed transformation to a system of social care fit for the 21st century".

But it said the government needed to deal with the trend for disabled people to be admitted to residential and nursing homes.

Arthritis Care said the ability to design personal care plans would be "extremely empowering".

The Multiple Sclerosis Society said the "far-reaching proposals" would give people with fluctuating conditions and their carers "flexibility and control".

* *Independence, Well-being and Choice www.dh.gov.uk/socialcare*

DN is calling for readers' questions about all aspects of driving, to be put to a panel of experts in our next motoring supplement. Whether you want to find the best deal on insurance, are not sure how to obtain an adaptation, or you are looking for reviews of specific vehicles, we hope to provide answers.

Your questions will be tackled both directly and in general features, so tell us soon what you want to know.

We also want to hear from readers with stories about their own vehicles. The supplement will appear in the June edition of *DN*. Email sarah.hobson@scope.org.uk or call 020 7619 7324.

DN's website honour

DN is celebrating after being short-listed for one of the most prestigious media awards.

It is the first time our efforts have won recognition at the annual awards of the Periodical Publishers Association (PPA).

A revamp of our website* last summer, combined with strong links to the paper version of *DN*, led PPA judges to choose *DN* as a finalist in the interactive consumer magazine of the year category.

While the *DN* team has worked hard on the website, relaunched as part of *DN*'s 20th year celebrations, particular thanks must go to our readers.

Without the input of those who filled in our online sex survey, we would not have been recognised. And we are also grateful to all those who picked up on topics in *DN* such as incapacity benefit changes and the Disability Discrimination Act, and discussed them on our website forums.

Award hopefuls: The *DN* team (*above*) and our website (*right*)

Readers have also helped to make the website a financial success by taking advantage of our for sale section and holiday directory, now viewed by thousands of users each month.

None of this would have been possible without *DN*'s outgoing editor Mary Wilkinson, who left last month after more than 20 years at the paper. She was always willing to invest in new ideas like the revamped website, and the risk paid off.

DN has been short-listed in its category alongside well-known titles such as Vogue, FHM, Empire and Radio Times. The results will be announced in May.

DN's web manager David Felton said: "We're delighted to have been recognised – especially alongside such big budget websites.

"For many thousands of disabled people, the web offers a community lifeline. The aim of the new *DN* website was to help readers become more involved with our campaigns and surveys, and debate issues like sexuality, the right to life and parking bay abuse with the editorial team and each other.

"To be short-listed in these awards shows we are definitely on the right track."

* *www.disabilitynow.org.uk*

Shaw Trust

Making the Move
from Welfare to Work:
Supported Employment Opportunities
for Disadvantaged and Disabled People

Tuesday 28th June 2005
RCOG Conference Centre, London NW1

An estimated 3.68 million people of working age are without employment due to poor health or disability, with 2.4 million of these being trapped on Incapacity Benefits. Yet recent surveys and service inspection reports suggest that many disabled and disadvantaged people would prefer to work, given the right opportunity and support.

This conference will look at ways in which social services and the NHS, together with employment service providers and training organisations can develop employment options as alternatives to dependency on day centres and benefits. Focusing on the latest models of good practice, the conference will highlight examples of different approaches to supported employment across the health, social care, training and education sectors. The conference will also provide an update on the latest government proposals to promote equality across employment for disabled people.

Speakers Include:

Ian Charlesworth
Managing Director, Shaw Trust

Simon Fanshawe
Writer and Broadcaster

Alison Bradford
Work Team Manager,
Durham Council

Sally Faraday
Research Manager, Learning and Skills Development Agency

Official publication:
DN disabilitynow

For further information please contact Debbie Young on 020 7324 4364 or e-mail debbie.young@neilstewartassociates.co.uk

To register online visit
www.neilstewartassociates.com/sg116

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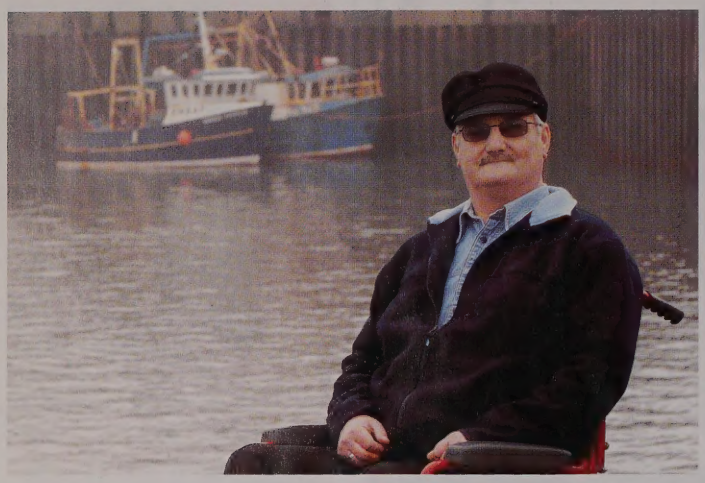

Ship ahoy: An entrepreneur is hoping to convert a ship to take other disabled people on sea cruises.

Kevin Drinkall, from Scarborough, wants to launch a new service that would offer disabled people cruises around the UK's historical ports in a fully accessible vessel.

Mr Drinkall, who became disabled in 1993 after a stroke, has worked with ships all his life.

He said: "I worked my way up from deckie learner to trawler skipper and have acquired a wealth of knowledge to do with the sea. There's nothing better than being at sea. I think about it every day."

His idea has already won support from Scarborough Enterprise Agency, which has helped him draw up a business plan.

Anyone with feedback on the idea or possible funding can contact Mr Drinkall via email at Bosun147@aol.com

Schools fears eased

Schools will have to obey the public sector duties contained in the new Disability Discrimination Bill, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions confirmed last month.

At the bill's second reading, Alan Johnson soothed mounting fears that the legislation, which covers over 40,000 public bodies, would not apply to schools in England and Wales (*DN April*).

He told the Commons that schools could not be exempt from the new duties but that the government would have to "tailor" the regulations to allow them to be fulfilled without causing unnecessary paperwork.

Mr Johnson said: "Schools have an especially significant bearing on the life chances of disabled people, and they play a crucial role in combating prejudice and equipping disabled children with the qualifications and skills that they need to participate fully in society and to realise their true potential."

The new regulations, expected to be in force by December 2006, will require schools and local education authorities to implement action plans aimed at closing the gap between the achievements of disabled and non-disabled students.

According to the Disability Rights Commission (DRC), 24 per cent of disabled people aged 16 to 24 have no school qualifications, compared with 13 per cent of non-disabled people of the same age.

A DRC spokeswoman said the specifics of the new duties would vary from school to school but the legislation would "force schools to take a proactive role".

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Charging hope

The Minister for Disabled People has told a conference that a new government report could be a weapon in the fight to abolish charging for services for disabled people.

Maria Eagle told London's Disability Capital Conference in March that she understood why disabled people did not like such charges and why they thought of them as discrimination.

Kevin Caulfield, from the National Centre for Independent Living, had asked whether the public sector should be allowed to charge for services that enable independent living.

Ms Eagle said such charges had been part of the welfare state since it was established and she was "not in a position...to abolish them".

But she said the new report from the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit* – which proposed creating individual budgets for each disabled person – might provide the opportunity to look at the issue in a "slightly different way".

Peter Beresford, chair of Shaping Our Lives, said charging was "essentially discriminatory" and it was "encouraging" that the problem could be looked at in a different way.

The conference also heard that the Mayor, Ken Livingstone, who could not attend due to illness, will appoint a policy adviser on disability, as he has for race and gender issues.

He said afterwards: "I am working to ensure that by major investments in transport, accessible housing and planning, London will become one of the most accessible cities in the world by 2012."

* *Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People www.strategy.gov.uk/output/page86.asp*

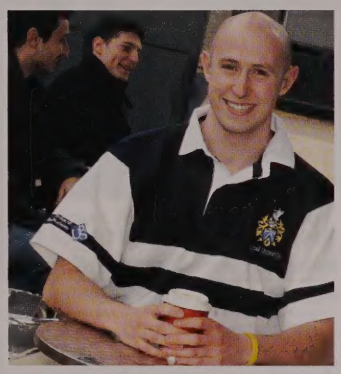
Joe's election pride

Joe Baines displays a winning smile after being elected president of Brunel University's students union in March.

The 22 year old is in his final year studying sport sciences at the university in Uxbridge.

He is believed to be only the third deaf student union president of a UK higher education institution, since the National Union of Students was founded more than 80 years ago.

Mr Baines said: "I'm very proud of what I've achieved so far because of the challenges that I've had to overcome. It has made me more aware that being deaf is not a big deal. It has also made me want to seek out more challenges, to see what I'm capable of."



As well as enjoying extreme sports such as bungee jumping and sky diving, he is a member of the England Deaf Rugby Union and will be playing in the Deaf Rugby World Cup in Wales in August, a month after he is officially installed as president of the Union of Brunel Students.

Rod rules fear

A mum of two disabled sons has criticised new rules she says will make it too expensive for some disabled anglers to continue enjoying their pastime.

Disabled people now need to show a parking Blue Badge at a Post Office to receive a half-price concessionary rod licence, which costs £31.75.

But Maureen Erdwin said the new rules, introduced on 1 April after a year-long review, could make it too costly for some people to buy a licence.

Previously, applicants had to prove they received one of several benefits.

The Erdwin family, from Reading, have fished on the Thames every summer for the past 20 years.

Mrs Erdwin's son Wayne has a Blue Badge, but she will now need to apply for two more for her husband and son Mark.

She said: "It's not a lot of money, but all these things add up."

She is even more concerned about the cost to people who no longer qualify for the concession.

About 60,000 anglers in England and Wales currently have a concessionary licence.

The Environment Agency (EA) said the new grounds were "more consistent, fairer and simpler" and were now in line with the Disability Discrimination Act.

But it said "a small group of people" might no longer qualify, and it would review the scheme after a year.

The British Disabled Angling Association (BDAA), which took part in the review, said the system needed to change to ensure the concession was granted "on a basis of disability and not inability to pay". It is helping to monitor complaints.

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Hitting the right notes

In *DN*'s problem page this month, a piano teacher requested help to make playing easier for a pupil with an artificial hand. Elisha Moore discovers that adaptations can be used for all sorts of hobbies

William Reynolds, who is ten, wanted to take up the trumpet three years ago, but with the use of only his right arm he was told he might be too small to hold a heavy instrument.

The keen musician had already stopped playing the piano "because there wasn't enough right-handed music", so was determined to succeed.

After he struggled to hold the trumpet, his family approached the charity REMAP, which makes equipment adaptations for disabled people on request.

William's mother, Emma, says: "Mr Pollick, who made the adaptations, spoke to William like an adult. They worked the design out between themselves."

'Other disabled people interested in music should go for it and try their best'

The result was a support on which the trumpet rests, that is attached to a waist and neck band.

William, who lives in Bath, says: "It allows me to play more easily. Mr Pollick cared about me playing the trumpet. It's made me feel confident."

He adds: "Playing the trumpet is good fun...other disabled people interested in music should go for it and try their best."

Phil Hughes is also keen that disabled people try out his passion, hand cycling. He began the sport after becoming disabled in an accident several years ago.

When he was buying his wheelchair from the company Cyclone in the north west of England, he was pleased to discover it also sold hand-powered bicycles.

DAVID BUNTON

Tuning up: William (*above and on the cover*) **blasts his trumpet; Phil** (*below*) **cruises with his pro-cycling bike; Steve** (*bottom*) **teaches his drawing skills to a new generation of budding artists**

There are two types of bikes: the bracket-bike that is clipped on to wheelchairs and the independent low-floor bike that Phil has.

He says: "Even in a wheelchair, anything is possible. If you're thinking of taking up cycling, give it a go. You're not limited to a wheelchair then."

Phil, who lives in Wales, adds: "I can cycle for ten to 15 miles. In a wheelchair I'm limited to two miles and it's difficult to get a good cardiovascular workout.

"Hand-cycling made a difference to my life. It built my strength and the exercise gives me a feel-good factor."

Phil tries to cycle every other day and has become so passionate that he has just bought a pro-cycling bike.

But he is also pleased that the equipment helps him enjoy everyday leisure pursuits, such as cycling along the beach with his daughter.

Phil says it is a good way of meeting people. "They're interested because it's new... children look and go "wow". It also means I can go cycling with able-bodied people."

Steve Chambers has turned his pastime into a full time profession after his mouth painting earned him full membership of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists (AMFPA) in March. This means he has reached the highest professional standard.

The recognition, he says, has "done everything for my confidence".

He adds: "I'm totally self-funded and proud to say that I've got a job."

Steve, from Norfolk, paints from his studio at home and his workstation is designed so he can pick up and drop paint-brushes with his mouth easily.

One painting by Steve has been auctioned for Heather Mills McCartney's charity the Landmine Trust and raised several hundred pounds. And painting is not his only pastime.

"My parents brought me up as able-bodied. I went fishing with my dad. He rigged up a rod and I held it in my mouth."

Steve adds: "You only live once. There's nothing that can't be done for disabled people now.

"You can find associations for your interest on the internet. Disability affects your life but you can get over it. Never give up."

REMAP, tel 0845 130 0456, www.remap.org.uk
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London Bubble positively encourages applications from people with disabilities and ethnic minorities. The company is a revenue-funded client of Arts Council of England, Association of London Government and London Borough of Southwark.

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Cont'd see pg 9

Support for disabled people

If you have a disability or health condition that affects your chances of finding or keeping a job, ask to see a Disability Employment Adviser. Disability Employment Advisers are based in Jobcentre Plus offices and Jobcentres and offer a wide range of advice and support. They can help you find a job, or stay in work if you are already employed.

The specialist service that Disability Employment Advisers provide, includes:

- advice on finding and keeping a job
- information on training
- support with benefit entitlement and programmes like New Deal, and
- advice on employing disabled people.

Contact your local Jobcentre Plus office or Jobcentre for further information.

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BBC

London Borough of Tower Hamlets

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If you would like to find out more about our Disability Employment Strategy please contact Mark Keeble, Principal Human Resources Officer on 020 7364 4789.

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POSITIVE ABOUT DISABLED PEOPLE

TOWER HAMLETS

DEADLINE - *Disability Now* May 2005 published 30 April. Classified deadlines: Booking: 15 April. Copy: 19 April.

FORD TRANSIT VAN 2.4, '53 reg, glazed all-round tinted glass. Automatic and manual (Durer shift gearbox), ABS brakes, medium wheel base, heightened roof. Alfred Bekker conversion, rear entry RICON wheelchair lift, tailgate. Six way revolving driver and passenger seat, lightened power steering, press button hand controls. E/windows, air con, CD player, towbar. Seats 5 plus, ample storage space. Metallic silver, excellent condition, 8k miles, 2 years' manufacturer's warranty remaining. £21,500 ono. Tel: 01609 883214 or 01609 883633 (N.Yorks) or mobile: 0797-6045632.

VOLKSWAGEN SHARAN 1.9 diesel, S reg, 42k miles, 9 months' MOT. Fsh, Automotive conversion with ramp for wheelchair access. Seats 5 plus wheelchair, only one owner, in excellent condition, air con, pas, central locking. £9,950 ono. Tel: 01707 895222 (Herts) or mobile: 07760 451252.

ORTHO KINETIC ELECTRIC car hoist for use with power or manual wheelchairs, as new, currently fitted to Estate car. Rarely used due to change of circumstance. £350 ono. Tel: 07812 393648.

CITROEN BERLINGO 1.8I with Brotherwood conversion incl ramp and electric hoist, 57" internal headroom, carries 4 plus wheelchair. 20k miles, W reg, auto, air con, e/windows, silver, pas. In very good condition, £7,600 ono. Tel: 07859 064407 (Dorset).

CHAIRMAN FORD ESCORT van 1.3, 4 seats incl driver, 1994 L reg. Reliable, only two owners from new, fsh. With lowering ramp and chassis, pas, silver with sliding windows. 65k miles, MOT and road tax expires 06/05. £950 ono Tel: 020 8898 5717.

DN disabilitynow Classified linage advertisements

Please use this form if you are a private individual and want to place a classified advertisement (not Personal adverts). Write clearly in block capitals. Remember to allow a space between words. Use each space in the line even if you have to split words at the end.

Choose an advert style from far right. Send this coupon with your name, address, daytime telephone number and a cheque for the total made payable to *Disability Now* to: 6 Market Road, London N7 9PW.

Continue on a separate sheet if necessary

Standard linage advert.
Cost: £9 per line.

DN reserves the right to edit advertisements if necessary. Completion of this form does not guarantee inclusion in a particular issue. **Sorry no refunds.** *DN* is a non-profit making newspaper.

Non-Executive Board Positions

There you are, at or near the top of your profession, and you decide to offer some of your time to the board of a public body in the Department for Work and Pensions. That's because you want to contribute your knowledge and experience to influence the development of Government policies and services to improve opportunities for disabled people.

We particularly need more people from minority ethnic backgrounds, women and disabled people to register their interest in non-executive positions.

Go to www.dwptalentregister.co.uk to find out more, tell us what your interests are and how your experience can help.

DWP Department for Work and Pensions

My Secret Body

It's time to redefine what makes a body beautiful.

Everywhere we look there are images of perfect bodies. These are the bodies to which we are all supposed to aspire. But do any of us really live up to these ideals? Endemol UK and Channel five are launching a nationwide campaign that sets out to challenge the way we British think about our bodies. We are calling on the British public to show and tell it how it really is.

We want YOU, your family and friends, to send in home videos, text photographs, and tell us the stories of your own real bodies. We want to know about the relationship you have with your body and other people's - what you love, what you hate, what you obsess about and what you are aroused by.

To contact us visit our Website at **www.five.tv/mysecretbody** or call us on **020 8222 4337**

My Secret Body will be thought provoking, funny and surprisingly sexy... be a part of it!

endemol u.k.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE TRAINEESHIP SCHEME

Northamptonshire County Council is leading the way into social work qualifications through their successful traineeship scheme. This is the third year the scheme will be offered to both graduates and non graduates. If you want a career in social work and you are a creative individual, interested in being challenged and committed to future development come and join our organisation.

We will offer:

- Opportunities to work in a statutory social care setting either in Children's Services or Community Services.
- Training support and guidance including assisting trainees to undertake the social work qualification at University College Northampton or the Open University.
- A good salary for the duration of the traineeship scheme starting at £17,400 plus course fees being paid and study leave.

We are looking for:

- For the Graduate Scheme you will need an honours degree at 2:1 or above. You will also need GCSE grade C or equivalent in Maths and English. Non graduates will require the Maths and English qualification also.
- At least one year's experience of working in a social care setting and have some understanding of the role of a Social Worker.
- You must be willing and able to commit yourself to an intensive programme of academic study and professional practice within Northamptonshire for a period spanning six years.

The post is subject to enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks.

Northamptonshire County Council has an excellent record in offering and supporting Practice Learning Opportunities associated with the Social Work Qualification.

For further information contact Learning and Development on 01933 220740.

For an application form please visit our website address www.northamptonshire.gov.uk or contact Human Resources on 01604 237208.

Closing date: 30 April 2005.

Beacon Council 2002-2003 Improving Urban Green Spaces

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Northamptonshire County Council

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www.northamptonshire.gov.uk

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- Three sling sizes are available, with a 4-point connection for comfort and safety. Special slings also available. All slings fit around seated person. No need to lift person to fit sling.
- Lifts up to 17.5 stones (110 kgs).
- The lift mounting post is the only fixture to your vehicle and is simple to install.
- Simple to transfer to your next car, leaving your existing vehicle in its original condition.

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